

2003 Report of Accomplishments

Ferry Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- Successfully completed stream, lake, and river bank restoration, and off site watering projects on a number of cooperators' property.
- Created buffer strips along 3,200 feet of riparian areas, and limited approximately 1,600 head of cow/calf pairs from accessing the headwaters and main bodies of the Kettle and San Poil Rivers.
- Provided engineering design services to 7 landowners and have completed the implementation on two of those projects using BMP practices. Assisted landowners in applying for funding, through programs like EQIP, to complete the additional projects.



Project on the San Poil River

Mission of the Ferry Conservation District

- Promote the conservation of renewable natural resources as a key element in providing conditions conducive to sustainable rural lifestyles, profitable local business, and a healthy environment.

Water Quality Implementation

- One project treated over one-half mile of the Kettle River, increasing habitat for both fish and wildlife while protecting the banks and two pump stations, and preventing several tons of soil loss.
- Served 10 cooperators, with 7 Best Management Practices (BMP) installed that protected, enhanced, and/or restored over a mile of lake and stream banks, and provided additional fish & wildlife habitat.

Basic Funding

- Educate and train landowners in the proper planning, design, and implementation of BMP projects.
- FCD utilized the basic funding to successfully write grants that were awarded for implementing numerous projects on both private and public lands. The funding awarded far exceeds that of the Basic and Implementation funding we receive from the Commission. This is used to extend our abilities to assist with implementation, and help landowners and agencies get high prioritized projects implemented that lack adequate funds.

Local Funding

- FCD was awarded a \$337,000 contract from the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council to oversee agencies, tribes, and conservation districts in the Subbasin Planning processes within the Intermountain Province (the subbasins where dams block anadromous fish passage).
- This process includes the creation of management plans, and the preparation for BPA funding that is committed to be spent in our subbasins for implantation projects to develop, restore, or enhance fish & wildlife habitat, lake and stream restoration, etc. This funding can be used in partnerships with different tribes and agencies to leverage other funding, and expand the funding we have already secured to treat more and more land and water, as well as purchase conservation easements, etc.

Professional Engineering

- The most significant accomplishment with this funding was the Kettle River Riparian project referenced above.
- Provided engineering designs for 7 cooperators. One lake restoration/habitat development, one river restoration/habitat development, and one stream re-channeling project were implemented with Best Management Practices (BMP) installed.
- FCD utilized private engineering contractors until the N.E. Area Association hired a District Engineer.

District Property

- Completed the installation of a nursery on the district property to provide plantings for future water quality, restoration, and habitat development projects. Utilized the local Job Corps crews in the development and maintenance of a trail system that we are tying into Curlew Lake State Park, approximately two miles away.
- Utilized the property for several educational and training events over the year including two day outdoor classrooms through the science programs in our local school.
- Interested the Audubon Society to support additional birding and wildlife projects we are currently involved in; and as a source of future funding.
- Secured EPA funding to do a wetlands assessment and establish a baseline reference for future reference, planning, and additional education opportunities. We have schools from the west side of the state utilize our property for these types of programs as well.
- Re-channelled a stream to provide fish spawning and wildlife habitat, and demonstrate streambank stabilization, to include native plantings.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- The stream re-channeling project above (District Property) is part of an education and demonstration site for informing and training landowners what options they have on their own sites. The project has several examples of stream bank stabilization BMP's implemented into the banks of the stream. This site is easily accessed by the public.
- Implemented several watershed conservation/habitat restoration projects throughout the district (including on the Colville Confederated Tribes Reservation) with grant funding from the Conservation Commission, one National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, one Dept. of Ecology (DOE) Section 319 grant, and two DOE Centennial Clean Water funds.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Assisted Ferry County in the 2514 WRIA 60 process to include volunteer facilitation to assist them through Phase I; and the County's Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) project.
- Partnered with Ferry County PUD doing a fuel feasibility study for the use of biomass to power co-generation. Active in the local Community Development Group, and assist groups such as North Ferry Enterprise Committee, Curlew Lake Association, Kettle River Advisory Board, Cattlemans Association, Farm Bureau, Upper Columbia RC&D, and helped the Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group organize a Citizens Group for the San Poil Watershed.

Information & Education

- Lake Roosevelt Water Festival reached over 700 fourth graders throughout our region for two days.
- Participated in the annual Ferry County Fair; sponsored the annual Spring Conservation Fair and Plant Sale that attract participants from Stevens, Ferry, and Okanogan Counties, as well as many of our non-resident landowners from the west side of the state. Moderated and participated as a panel participant at the Lake Roosevelt Forum in Spokane; participated in Inchelium Day on the Colville Indian Reservation, Echo Bay Minerals Arbor Day, and had a two day wetland assessment course with local science teachers on our district property.
- Served as the Oversight Committee Chairman for the Intermountain Province Subbasin Planning process, and as a Facilitator in the local Kettle River (WRIA 60) 2514 Watershed Planning process.

Washington Conservation Districts

Assisting land managers with their conservation choices

This weir is part of a bank stabilization project that included 2 barbs and several weirs to protect over a half mile of the Kettle River.

